

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is presented to place the application in proper form for examination and to eliminate multiple dependency from the present claims. No new matter has been added.

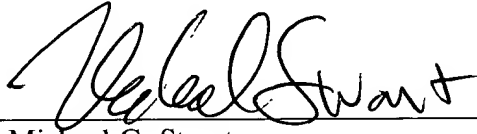
The paragraph from page 5, line 29, to page 6, line 9, has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error which appears in the specification, but which was corrected in claim 3 of the PCT application as published, namely that the thickness of the coating(s) can be as thick as 90 μ m, rather than 90 m.

Early examination and favorable consideration of the above-identified application is earnestly solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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AMENDMENTS TO THE APPLICATION

Page 1, the paragraph from line 4 to 5 has been amended as follows:

--The present invention relates to a rod doctor [according to the preamble of claim 1] for metering the amount of coating mix applied to the surface of a moving web of board or paper or to the applicator roll surface in a film transfer coater and for leveling the applied coat.--

The paragraph from page 5, line 29, to page 6, line 9, has been amended as follows:

--A surfacing layer fabricated by vacuum deposition techniques is comparatively thin; its thickness typically varies from 1 nm to 90 μ m. In spite of its infinitesimal thickness, the surfacing layer is entirely free from pores and conforms without cracks to the contour of the object being coated as the layer is produced at an atomic layer deposition level. The substrate to be surfaced by vacuum deposition can be of almost any material such as a metal, stone, plastic or glass. The surfacing materials used herein are selected from the groups of metals, metal alloys, oxides, nitrides or carbides. Different kinds of surface coatings may vary vastly in terms of their properties.--.